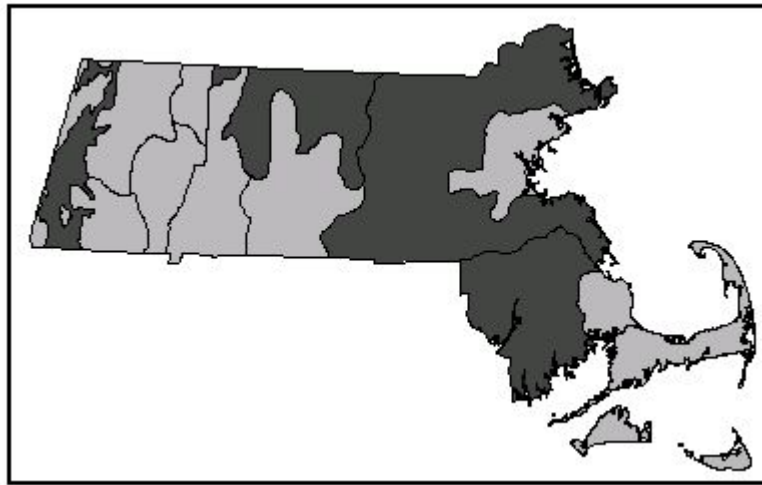


Community Name: ACIDIC SHRUB FEN
Community ELCODE: CP2B0B2000
SRANK: S3



- Concept:** Shrub-dominated acidic peatlands characterized by a mixture of primarily deciduous shrubs. Acidic shrub fens experience some groundwater and /or surface water flow but not calcareous seepage.
- Environmental setting:** Acidic shrub fens are less acidic and nutrient-poor than level bogs; they appear to have more surface water inflow and some groundwater connectivity. Acidic shrub fens are typically found along wet pond margins in the eastern half of the state, but they also characterize many wet pond margins in northern Worcester County [e.g., Cheshire and Lincoln Ponds, Ashburnham] and the Berkshires [Horseshoe-Mud Pond Bog, Otis]. More information is needed to identify the physical, geochemical, or hydrological differences between acidic shrub fens and acidic graminoid fens.
- Vegetation Description:** Acidic shrub fens are composed primarily of low-growing, interwoven shrubs with patches of Sphagnum moss growing at the shrub bases. Evergreen and deciduous shrubs occur; typical species include leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*), water-willow (*Decodon verticillatus*), sweet-gale (*Myrica gale*), meadow-sweet (*Spiraea alba* var. *latifolia*), sweet-pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), and alder (*Alnus* spp.). Scattered red maples (*Acer rubrum*) and Atlantic white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*) can also occur. There is a limited number of herbaceous species, including St. John's-wort (*Hypericum* spp.) and arrow-weed (*Sagittaria* spp.). These associations are similar in structure to dwarf ericaceous shrub bogs, but they are wetter with a less well-developed sphagnum mat.
- Associations:** One association has been described in Massachusetts: the *Decodon verticillatus*-*Chamaedaphne calyculata*-*Myrica gale* acidic shrub fen association [TYPE F; described in Kearsley, 1999c].
- Habitat values for Associated Fauna:** Acidic shrub fens can function as vernal pool habitat if water remains standing for 2-3 months; these areas provide important amphibian breeding habitat.
- Associated rare plants:**
 NONE KNOWN
- Associated rare animals:**
- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|----|
| CLEMMYS GUTTATA | SPOTTED TURTLE | SC |
| LITHOPHANE VIRIDIPALLENS | PALE GREEN PINION MOTH | SC |
| PAPAIPEMA SULPHURATA | WATER-WILLOW STEM BORER | T |
| WILLIAMSONIA LINTNERI | RINGED BOGHAUNTER | E |
- Examples with Public Access:** Mud Pond-Horseshoe Pond bog, Otis; Lowell-Dracut State Forest bog, Dracut.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Threats:	Hydrological alterations that affect either water quality or quantity threaten the community occurrences and the component species. Nutrient enrichment from surrounding land uses allows less tolerant species to displace low nutrient specialists.		
Management needs:	Maintaining water quality and quantity are important to all wetland communities.		
Synonyms			
USNVC/TNC:	In part <i>Chamaedaphne calyculata</i> -(<i>Gaylussacia dumosa</i>)- <i>Decodon verticillatus</i> / <i>Woodwardia virginica</i> dwarf-shrubland ; also in part <i>Decodon verticillatus</i> semipermanently flooded shrubland and <i>Myrica</i> gale saturated shrubland.		
MA [old name]:	Part of SNE acidic basin fen [CP3A2B1000].		
ME:	Related to and includes: 2001 - Leatherleaf Boggy Fen. 1991 - Part of Acidic fen community.		
VT:	Similar to Poor fen.		
NH:	Not described.		
NY:	Not described.		
CT:	Not described.		
RI:	Not described.		
Golet & Larson, 1974:			
Other:			
Author:	J. Kearsley	Date:	7/21/99